

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-11, and add claim 12, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows.

Following the addition of claim 12, the number of independent claims is two, which is less than the allotted 3, and the total number of claims is 12, less than the allotted 20. Accordingly, Applicants calculate that no fee is due for the addition of the one claim. In the event that a fee is deemed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to assignee's Deposit Account, in accordance with the final paragraph of this Amendment.

1. (Currently Amended) In an internal combustion engine, a rotary valve assembly comprising
a shaft rotatable about an axis and having a hole transverse to the axis; and
~~comprising~~ at least one elastomeric damper for changing a resonant
frequency of said shaft, said damper being molded onto the shaft and comprising an
anchor portion extending within the hole.

2. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly ~~shaft~~ in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said resonant frequency is less than about 660 Hz.

3. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly shaft in accordance with Claim 1 further including a rotary air control valve mounted on the shaft apart from the damper.

4. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly shaft in accordance with Claim 1 disposed within said engine, wherein said at least one elastomeric damper is disposed between said shaft and said engine whereby said shaft is acoustically grounded to said engine for changing said resonant frequency of said shaft.

5. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly shaft in accordance with Claim 4 wherein the shaft is rotatably mountable to said engine at opposite ends of said shaft.

6. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly shaft in accordance with Claim 4 further comprising at least one butterfly vane disposed on said shaft.

7. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly shaft in accordance with Claim 6 wherein material forming said butterfly vane includes nylon.

8. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly shaft in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least a portion of said butterfly vane includes an elastomer.

9. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly ~~shaft~~ in accordance with Claim 4 further comprising a plurality of said at least one elastomeric damper, said plurality of dampers being spaced apart along said shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly ~~shaft~~ in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one elastomeric damper is formed from an elastomer having a durometer value of about 55.

11. (Currently Amended) A valve assembly ~~shaft~~ in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one elastomeric damper is formed of silicone rubber.

12. (New) A rotary valve assembly for an internal combustion engine comprising

a shaft rotatable about an axis and having a first anchor hole transverse to the axis and a second anchor hole transverse to the axis and perpendicular to the first anchor hole;

a butterfly vane affixed to the shaft and including an anchor portion extending through the first anchor hole; and

an elastomeric damper affixed to the shaft apart from the butterfly vane and including an anchor portion extending through the second hole, said elastomeric damper being effective to acoustically ground the shaft to the engine for changing the resonant frequency thereof.